

By: Thompson of Harris

H.R. No. 184

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Cynthia Lee Baum Gerhardt, former chief clerk of the
3 Texas House of Representatives, on May 9, 2008; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Elmer "Doc" Carl Baum and Virginia
5 Kuns Baum, the former Cynthia Lee Baum was born on August 7, 1937,
6 in Fort Scott, Kansas; at the age of six, she moved with her family
7 to Austin, a city that she heartily adopted as her home; she
8 graduated from Austin High School and briefly worked for the
9 Treasury Department and the Texas Employment Commission, before
10 leaving to attend Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, where she
11 earned an associate's degree in 1957; while there, she married and
12 became the mother of two daughters, Suzanne and Sharon; and

13 WHEREAS, Returning to Austin, Ms. Gerhardt again found
14 employment in state government, initially working for members of
15 the Texas House of Representatives and later in the Office of the
16 Governor; in 1970, she started her impressive 25-year tenure in the
17 Chief Clerk's Office, and she served as chief clerk during parts of
18 the 73rd and 74th Legislatures; she retired in 1995; and

19 WHEREAS, Ms. Gerhardt was possessed of a strong work ethic,
20 courage, and grace, qualities that she instilled in her children by
21 example; through the years, she was fortunate to receive the
22 support and affection of a wide circle of loved ones, including
23 lifelong friends and extended family with whom she shared many
24 memorable gatherings; she was enthusiastic about politics, as well

1 as University of Texas sports, and delighted others with her keen,
2 often droll, sense of humor; and

3 WHEREAS, Those who were privileged to know Cynthia Gerhardt
4 will forever treasure their memories of time spent in her company,
5 and the devotion and strength of spirit with which she lived will
6 remain a source of inspiration for years to come; now, therefore, be
7 it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
9 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
10 of Cynthia Lee Baum Gerhardt and extend sincere sympathy to the
11 members of her family: to her daughters, Suzanne "Suzy" Gerhardt
12 Ranney and her husband, Jack, and Sharon Gerhardt; to her
13 grandchildren, Carleton and Virginia Ranney; to her brother, Dr.
14 Alan C. Baum; to her nephew and niece, Alan Baum, Jr., and Caroline
15 Baum; to her longtime friends, Julie Whitworth Moore, Betty Murray,
16 MariBen Ramsey, and Marilyn Sandhop; and to her other relatives and
17 friends; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Cynthia Lee
21 Baum Gerhardt.